

URBAN DISTRICT OF CONSETT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1950

GEORGE EWEN,
M.B., Ch.B.

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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, BUILDING AND SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1950

Chairman : Coun. J. H. TEMPLE.

Vice-Chairman : Coun. J. MAWSON.

Couns. F. H. Curran, J. Hunt, R. Bell, E. Smith,
T. A. Walton, W. Walton, S. W. Smith, G. R. Davison,
E. H. Farnsworth and A. E. Arkless.

Also Chairman of the Council,
Coun. W. Beck, J.P. (Ex-officio).

Vice-Chairman of the Council,
Coun. R. G. Knowles (Ex-officio).

Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspectors, Shop's
Inspector and Rodent Officer's Department,
Health Department,
Medomsley Road,
Consett.

Telephone : Consett 352.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Medomsley Road,
Consett.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF CONSETT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district during 1950.

This Report is on the work carried out by your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. G. Walker.

The Vital Statistics can be regarded as satisfactory, and apart from an epidemic of measles, there was no serious incidence of any other infection.

It is exceptionally pleasing to record the absence of diphtheria during the year, and this can be attributed to the success of diphtheria immunisation.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. EWEN.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of General and Vital Statistics.

Area in acres	10.042
Poulation (Census 1931)	38,046
Population (estimated by the Registrar General) 1950 ...	39,130
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at the end of 1950	11,206
Rateable Value	£175.862
Sum represented by a penny rate	£650
Births during 1950—684. Birthrate	17.4
Deaths during 1950—482. Crude Deathrate	12.3
Infant Mortality Rate, 1950	43.8
Tuberculosis Deathrate, 1950	0.40
Pulmonary—0.28. Non-Pulmonary	0.12
Zymotic Deathrate, 1950	0.10

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT

Consett is an industrial town and originated just over 100 years ago. The Consett Iron Company Ltd., and The National Coal Board are the largest employers in the district and the prosperity of the town is dependent on Iron, Steel and Coal.

The district was constituted a Local Board Division in 1865 with an area of 1,005 acres and a population of 7,000. It now extends over 9,840 acres with a population of 39,130. The town stands at a high altitude being nearly 900 feet above sea level in its highest parts and sloping steeply down to the River Derwent which forms its boundary on the north for a considerable distance.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND INDUSTRIES

Few towns could better the social spirit that exists in Consett. The many active associations, both voluntary and official, that operate in the area are proof of this. It has always been the policy of your Health Department to maintain close touch with these services.

The Consett Iron Company Ltd., and the National Coal Board are the main sources of industry in the area. Extensive reconstruction is going on in the works of the former and we gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of the officials of both concerns in any matter we have to bring before them.

A new trading estate has been laid out in the Castleside area, which whilst actually in Lanchester Rural District, will draw most of its workers from the Consett area. One factory is in operation.

SPECIAL CAUSES OF SICKNESS, EFFECTS OF OCCUPATION, ETC.

There was an epidemic of measles during the year and apart from accidents associated with heavy industries there appears to be no ill effects on the health of the workers by reason of these industries.

The supply of vitamins and milk foods at the Welfare Centres can claim a large share of the improvement in the health of infants and young children.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	664	327	337	Birthrate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—17.4
	Illegitimate ...	20	13	7	
		<hr/> 684	<hr/> 340	<hr/> 344	
Still Births	Legitimate ...	18	14	4	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—25.6
	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
		<hr/> 18	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 4	
Deaths from all causes	Total	482	M. 248	F. 234	Deathrate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—12.3

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VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Consett Urban District
		Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
<i>Births</i>					
Live births ...	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8	17.4
Still births ...	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36	0.46
<i>Deaths</i>					
All Causes ...	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	12.3
Typhoid and para- typhoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39	0.40
Influenza ...	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.10
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polio- encephalitis) ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48	0.48

<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>					
Typhoid fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	Nil
Paratyphoid fever...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	Nil
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.12
Scarlet fever ...	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23	1.50
Whooping cough ...	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21	5.41
Diphtheria ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.12
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Measles ...	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57	9.58
Pneumonia ...	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50	0.28
Acute poliomyelitis (including polio-encephalitis)					
Paralytic ...	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.05
Non-paralytic ...	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.00
Food poisoning ...	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25	0.02
<i>Deaths</i>					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	29.8(a)	33.8	Rates per 1,000 Live Births 29.4	26.3	43.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	4.3
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>					
Puerperal fever and pyrexia ...	5.81	7.43	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births 4.33	6.03	0.00

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

The following figures relate to Consett Urban District:—

		Rate per 1,000 (Live
Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths.	and Still) Births).
No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth,		
Abortion	Nil	—

Deathrate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	43.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	...	43.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births	...	50.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	67
Deaths from Measles	... ..	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	... ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)		4.3
Population estimated by the Registrar-General, 1950		39,130

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-year 1950 was 39,130. This is an increase on last year's figure of 230. The population at the 1931 Census was 38,046, the figures for the last ten years are given in the following table:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Population	37,040	36,210	35,320	35,050	35,310	36,760	37,040	38,820	38,900	39,130

BIRTHS, BIRTHRATE, ETC.

The birthrate was 17.4 per 1,000 population compared with 15.8 for England and Wales and 16.7 for 148 Smaller Towns having a population of 25,000 to 50,000. The rate for the Administrative County was 17.7. The following table gives the births and birthrates for the past 10 years:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Births	639	671	602	732	694	751	780	737	708	684
Rate	17.2	18.5	17.0	20.8	19.6	20.4	21.0	18.9	18.2	17.4

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

There were 340 male and 344 female births, the ratio being 1,000 males to 1.011 females.

DEATHS, DEATHRATE, ETC.

There were 482 deaths in 1950 compared with 463 last year. The rate was 12.3 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6 and for 148 Smaller Towns 11.6. The Administrative County rate was 11.5. The number of deaths and the deathrate for the past 10 years are given in the following table:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	409	433	432	434	435	415	415	417	463	482
Rate	11.0	11.9	12.2	12.0	12.3	11.2	11.2	10.7	11.9	12.3

ZYMOTIC DEATHRATE.

There were 4 deaths from the principal infectious diseases. This was three more than last year and gives a zymotic deathrate of 0.10. The rate for the Administrative County was 0.08 and the rates for the last 10 years are shown in the following table:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Zymotic Death- rate	0.11	0.24	0.14	0.00	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.10

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No deaths were recorded from puerperal causes during the year. The rate for the Administrative County was 1.00. The following table gives the rates in the Consett Urban District for the last 10 years:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	5	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
Totals	5	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0
Rate per 1,000 total births	7.55	2.8	1.5	1.3	0	0	1.2	0	2.7	0

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

There were 30 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, compared with 29 last year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 43.8. The rate for the Administrative County was 38, whilst that for 148 Smaller Towns was 29.4. The following table gives the infant mortality rates for the last 10 years:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Rate per 1,000 births	66	59	46	43	49	39	36	55	41	43

The causes of death in these children and their ages are shown in the following table:—

CAUSE OF DEATH (Infants under 1 year of age)	Under 1 Mth.	1 Mth.	2 Mths.	3 Mths.	4 Mths.	5 Mths.	6 Mths.	7 Mths.	8 Mths.	9 Mths.	10 Mths.	11 Mths.
Prematurity	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural Causes	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broncho-pneumonia	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Icterus Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Heart Disease	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Septicæmia, Acute Bronchitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydrocephalus, Spina Bifida	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anencephalic Monster	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles, Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Intestinal Obstruction	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Pyloric Stenosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningocele	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death are set out in the following table. It will be noted that tuberculosis was responsible for 3.3 per cent. and cancer 13.9 per cent. The chest diseases bronchitis and pneumonia were responsible for 7.2 per cent. and vascular lesions of nervous system caused 11.4 per cent. The figures in respect of heart disease were 17.4 per cent.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Males.	Female.
All causes	...	...	...	...	248	234
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	9	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	3	2
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	2	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	—	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	11	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	8	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	7
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	17	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	26	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	32	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	12	13
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	33	51
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	5	9
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	3
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	11	8
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	6	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	4	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	9
29. Hyper-plasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	5	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	25	28
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	4	2
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	17	4
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—

STILL BIRTHS.

A total of 18 still births was recorded during 1950 compared with 26 last year. All these were legitimate births. This gives a rate of 0.46 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.37 and that for 148 Smaller Towns 0.38, per 1,000 population. The

following table gives the rates for the last 10 years, both per thousand population and per thousand births:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Total										
No.	23	36	34	31	27	34	20	27	26	18
<hr/>										
Rate per 1,000 population										
	0.62	0.99	0.96	0.88	0.76	0.92	0.54	0.43	0.66	0.46
<hr/>										
Rate per 1,000 total births										
	34.7	50.9	53.4	40.6	37.4	43.3	25.6	22.5	35.4	25.6
<hr/>										

CANCER MORTALITY.

There were 67 deaths from Cancer during 1950 which is 5 less than the previous year and forms 13.9 per cent. of the total deaths. There were 36 males and 31 females.

SITE OF DISEASE ACCORDING TO SEX

MALE				FEMALE			
Colon	...	...	3	Colon	...	...	1
Rectum	...	...	2	Pancreas	...	...	3
Stomach	...	...	11	Stomach	...	...	7
Pancreas	...	...	2	Lung	...	...	1
Tongue	...	...	1	Face	...	...	1
Prostate	...	...	3	Intestine	...	...	1
Kidney	...	...	1	Ovary and Uterus	...	...	7
Liver	...	...	1	Breast	...	...	4
Bronchus and Lung	...	...	8	Cervix	...	...	4
Other sites	...	...	4	Other sites	...	...	2
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Total	..	..	36	Total	...	...	31
<hr/>				<hr/>			

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(a) Medical Officer of Health:—

JOHN G. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Offices and duties: Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for the joint areas of the Consett Urban and Lanchester Rural District Councils, in accordance with the Memorandum on the duties of Medical Officers of Health, and the Sanitary Officers Order, 1935—Deceased November 2nd, 1950.

(b) Chief Sanitary Inspector, H. WALTON, M.S.I.A., M.INST. R.A., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors. Appointed May 1st, 1950. The duties of this appointment, which is whole-time, are as set out in the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspectors:—

W. TELFORD, M.S.I.A.,

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

T. E. HODGSON, M.S.I.A.—Appointed July 1st, 1950.

These appointments are subject to the approval of the Minister of Health and 50% of the salaries are payable from County Funds.

(d) Shops Inspector:—

R. P. JOPE.

(e) Clerical Staff:—

Chief Clerk: Miss P. E. BARROW.

Clerk: W. A. ROBERTS.

Junior Clerk: Miss M. MARTIN—Resigned November, 1950.

(f) Rodent Officer:—

T. McALOON.

(g) Home Visitor, Assistant Clerk, etc.:—

Miss E. A. PICKERING.

Medical Officers in connection with Schools, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis. Food and Drugs Inspectors. Health Visitors, etc., carry out various Public Health activities in the district. These officers are appointed and controlled by the County Council.

(1) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A scheme is in operation where specimens of pathological material can be examined for Public Health Officers or Medical Practitioners at the Central Laboratory, Government Buildings.

Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5, Telephone No. Kenton 69319. Your Medical Officer of Health is available to assist in such matters with advice as to methods of collection, dispatch, etc. Water samples are sent to the above Laboratory for bacteriological examination and to the County Public Analyst, Darlington, in other cases.

(2) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Since July 5th, 1948, the local health authority has provided a 24 hour ambulance service from local headquarters at Villa Real, Consett, telephone No. Consett 411.

Services in the Area Provided by the Durham County Council

Assistance with enquiries regarding these services will be furnished at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Medomsley Road, Consett, on request.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

1. At Weatherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett.

Ante-natal Clinics every Monday all day and Wednesday afternoons once a fortnight. Sessions for babies alternate Fridays and Wednesdays. Post-natal and Birth Control alternate Friday mornings. Sunlight treatment Tuesday and Thursday afternoons weekly.

2. Blackhill.

Clinics held at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Durham Road. Babies, Thursday once a fortnight all day. Ante-natal Clinics alternate Thursday, afternoons only.

CONVALESCENT HOME.

The E. F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge, telephone Shotley Bridge 27, admits nursing mothers with their babies and children under 5 years of age.

COUNTY MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

A domiciliary midwifery service is provided. The names and addresses of the midwives available can be obtained from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Health Visitors or from the County Medical Officer.

HOME HELPS.

Particulars of this service can be obtained from the Home Help Organiser, 44, Old Elvet, Durham, telephone Durham 1616.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE AND AFTER CARE.

This service is administered by the County Council and particulars can be obtained from the County Medical Officer.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The County Scheme includes education of blind children, training of approved workers, treatment for prevention of blindness, etc. Information regarding the services can be obtained from the County Medical Officer or from Miss K. A. J. Robson, 8. St. Andrews Gardens, Blackhill.

CARE OF THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

Parents or relatives in charge of children or young adults who are mentally retarded or undeveloped are invited to communicate with the County Medical Officer or the District Health Visitors.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Scheme provides for the systematic medical inspection of school children and for medical treatment of defects discovered. School Clinic, Weatherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett. Sessions Tuesdays and Fridays.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Sessions are held for children under 5 years of age alternate Friday afternoons, at Weatherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett.

HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT.

These are controlled by the North West Durham Hospital Management Committee—Secretary: Mr. A. Lawther, Shotley Bridge General Hospital, Shotley Bridge. Enquiries should be made of your own Doctor or from the Bed Bureau, Shotley Bridge Hospital, telephone Shotley Bridge 118. The Hospitals under this group are:—

Shotley Bridge General Hospital; Infectious Disease Hospital, Lanchester; Lee Hill Hospital, Lanchester; Richard Murray Hospital, Blackhill; and South Moor Hospital.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply is under control of the Durham County Water Board and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. This water is derived from reservoirs and springs. filtration is carried out by means of pressure and sand filters and treatment is of alum, lime and chlorine. A covered in service reservoir for supplying houses in Blackhill and the lower boundaries of the area is situated in Consett.

Five samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and these were all satisfactory, details are given in the appendix. No samples were submitted for chemical analysis or for contamination by lead and no ill effects were traced to plumbosolvency.

Fourteen houses are without a supply of mains water, one of which is at present unoccupied and two others your Council are negotiating to buy with a view to supplying a proper piped supply. These 14 houses are supplied with water from springs and runners and periodic samples were taken and submitted to the bacteriologist. In each case where the number of coliform bacilli exceeded 10 per m.l. the occupiers were warned that all water used for cooking and drinking should be boiled. There are no stand pipes in the area.

Date	Source of supply	Probable No. of coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37° per 100 ml.	Probable No. of faecal coli per 100 ml.
26.4.50	Public Water Supply	0	—
"	Public Water Supply	0	—
"	Hearts of Oak Farm	3	—
"	Shotley Grove	0	—
"	Mill House, Ebchester	2	—
"	Southfield Farm	0	—
"	Dene Cottage	35	—
"	Stockerley Grove	2	—
"	Salem Cottage	17	—
"	Allensford Hall	3	—
"	Rose Cottage, Allensford	13	—
"	Hole House Farm	20	—
10.5.50	Salem Cottage, Knitsley	35	—
"	Dene Cottage	10	—
"	Rose Cottage	25	—
"	Hole House	3	—
14.10.50	Mill House, Ebchester	0	—
"	Westwood Farm House	Over 180	—
"	Hearts of Oak Farm	8	—
"	Stockerley Grove	1	—
"	Salem Cottage	Over 180	—
"	Rose Cottage, Allensford	Over 180	—
"	Dene Cottage	0	—
23.11.50	Public Water Supply	0	—
"	Public Water Supply	0	—
"	Public Water Supply	0	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Difficulty has been encountered in maintaining a satisfactory effluent from the sewage works at Knitsley due to overloading. The other three works at Ebchester, Pont and Crookhall have given satisfactory results and no serious trouble has been experienced. A new storm water sewer and a 9" main have been laid to take drainage from the Moorside Housing Estate, part of Castleside Village and the new Trading Estate at Moorside.

A relief sewer from Consett Hall Road passing through Howden Wood to the main sewer is in course of construction and this will considerably relieve the overloaded main.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A further sixty-five houses were converted from the conservancy type of closet to water closets. Thirty-three of these were at High Westwood.

The sanitary arrangements at an Inn were reconstructed and a proper building erected in which were placed urinals and water closets for the separate sexes.

The number and types of closets in the area are as follows:—

Water Closets	...	11,877
Ash Closets	...	443
Ashpit Privies		70

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

The whole area is now serviced by your own employees and vehicles, all contract work having been discontinued. Two extra vehicles were added to the existing fleet.

Tipping was carried out at nine refuse tips and these were regularly treated for rats.

ASH BIN RENEWAL SCHEME.

The scheme for supplying ash bins at a certified cost has resulted in 18 being supplied.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following figures are given relating to nuisances dealt with under the Public Health and Housing Acts:—

				Formal	Notices by Nuisances
				Order of	abated
				Local	after
				Authority	Notice
Foul Conditions	...	...	5	—	5
Structural Defects	...	...	525	4	413
Overcrowding	...	...	24	—	24
Bakehouses	...	...	7	—	7
Slaughter Houses	...	...	10	—	10
Ash Pits and Privies	...	...	2	—	2
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	20	—	20
Water Closets	...	...	17	—	15
Drainage Faults	...	...	106	—	84
Water Supply	...	...	3	—	2
Pigsties	...	...	8	—	2
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	2	—	2
Other Nuisances	...	...	29	—	29
Defective Ash Bins renewed	...	...	115	—	105
Total				4	720

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Seventy houses were visited following notification of infectious disease. Free disinfectants were supplied to the occupier for the cleansing of rooms and clothing. In one case infectious bedding was destroyed.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1948.

There were 127 visits of inspection made to various factories in the area. There are only 6 outworkers employed in the area and these are employed in the work of repair and alteration to wearing apparel.

Premises.	No. on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prose- cutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	42	21	1	Nil.
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	87	106	4	Nil.
Total	129	127	5	Nil.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
unsuitable or defective ...	3	2	—	1	
Other offences ...	2	2		2	
Total ...	5	4	Nil.	3	Nil.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Closing Hours of the main shopping centres in the area continue to be between 5.30 and 6.0 p.m. daily. Twenty-nine shops have substituted Saturday Half Closing instead of Wednesday, and of these 9 were hairdressers establishments.

Visits to all the 588 traders were made and 139 visits were made in the evenings and on Sundays in order to ensure that the requirements of the Acts were being carried out.

The appended table indicates that there are 593 premises liable for inspection and in 332 of these premises 1,086 assistants are employed. There were 838 assistants over the age of 18 years, 184 under the age of 18 years and 64 under the age of 16 years. The average hours worked by Young Persons were approximately 43 hours per week. Included in the premises liable for inspection were 29 houses from which retail trade is carried out.

Two Managers were cautioned for working on their weekly half-holiday and four others were interviewed regarding assistants working on their weekly half-holiday. One trader was cautioned for not keeping a record of persons working on a Sunday. Nine traders were cautioned for selling goods after closing hours and two were issued with warnings that if a repetition of this offence occurred, proceedings would be instituted against them. Numerous cases of missing or incorrect forms were rectified. No prosecutions were made during the year.

There are 52 premises open for trading on a Sunday of which 10 remain open all day, the remainder closing approximately at 1.0 p.m. Two traders were interviewed regarding selling of articles prohibited on a Sunday.

The increase reported in mobile trading last year continues and various up-to-date travelling shops, particularly selling groceries and provisions, were operating in the area. These were made to comply with the general closing hours.

The Undermentioned Orders are in operation in the area:—

1. The Consett Butchers and Pork Butchers Half-Holiday Closing Order.
2. The Consett Weekly Half-Holiday Order in respect of:—
Boot and Shoe Dealers, Clothiers, Drapers, Milliners, Hosiers, Mercers, Furniture Dealers, Glass, China and Hardware Dealers, Ironmongers, Grocers and Provision Dealers, Jewellers, Pawnbrokers, Piano and Wireless Dealers, Cycle Dealers, Stationers, Fancy Goods Dealers, Wallpaper and Paint Dealers, Lending Libraries and Seed and Corn Merchants.
3. The Shotley Bridge Weekly Half-Holiday Suspension Order.
4. The Shotley Bridge (Week-day) Closing Order.
5. The Shotley Bridge (Sunday Trading Restriction Act, 1936) Closing Order No. 2.
6. Extension of Closing Hours for Tobacconists.

The Authority exercised its power under Section 43 (2) of the Shops Act and suspended Closing Hours on seven days in the year. During the period of Winter Closing Hours the Authority extended the General Closing Hours until 7.0 p.m. on Friday and granted Hairdressers the facility to remain open to 6.30 p.m. on days other than the late days.

The Cinemas in the area continue to operate under Section 68 of the Shops Act. These Cinemas continue to open on Sundays and provisions regarding persons employed on that day as governed by the Sunday Entertainment Act, 1936 have been checked.

It is a pleasure to report that the great majority of the traders **continue to observe and to comply with the various provisions of the Act and Closing Orders.**

No. of Premises liable to inspection	TRADE	No. of Premises where assistants are employed	Number of persons employed				Under 16	Number of persons employed
			Males Under 18	Under 16	Over 18	Females Under 18		
3	Auctioneers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Boot and Shoe Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37	Butchers and Pork Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
82	Bakers, Caterers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Chemists and Photographers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
47	Clothiers, Drapers, Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Coal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Fish Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Fried Fish Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
42	Fruiters and Florists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Furniture Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
70	Grocers and Provision Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28	General Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Glass, China, Hardware Dealers & Ironmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
41	Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Hosiery and Mercers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Jewellers and Pawnbrokers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
78	Licensed Victuallers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Motor Engineers, Cycle & Wireless Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Newsagents, Stationers, Fancy Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Tobacconists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Wallpaper and Paint Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Miscellaneous Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Shops not occupied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
593		332	369	17	469	138	47	1086

Housing.

Building Schemes were in operation during the year at Stanefordham, Moorside, Medomsley, Bradley Square and Richard Murray Estate, in all 134 houses were erected by the Council, details are as follows:—

<i>Stanefordham.</i>		
Traditional Houses	...	16
<i>Moorside.</i>		
Traditional Houses	...	5
<i>Medomsley.</i>		
Traditional Houses	...	27
<i>Bradley Square.</i>		
Traditional Houses	...	26
<i>Richard Murray Estate.</i>		
Traditional Houses	...	60
		<hr/>
Total		134
		<hr/>

In addition, 13 houses were built by private enterprise for owner occupiers and these were situated at:—

Hamsterley Mill Estate	...	7
Bridgehill	... ..	1
Ebchester	... ..	4
Shotley Bridge	... ..	1
		<hr/>
Total		13
		<hr/>

Since the end of the War a total of 973 houses have been built:—

	<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>Private</i>
1946	... 58	10
1947	... 238	16
1948	... 268	29
1949	... 195	12
1950	... 134	13
		<hr/>
Totals	893	80
		<hr/>

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of houses in respect of which owners have given undertakings not to use the houses (once vacated) for human habitation 7

Number of houses actually demolished 18

The following unfit houses which were dealt with by Clearance Area Schemes or by Demolition are still standing in a ruinous condition:—

9, East View Templetown	...	...	1
36/41, Benfieldside Road, Blackhill	...	...	6
49/53, Wood Street, Shotley Bridge	...	...	5
1/6, Chapel Row, Iveston	...	...	6
Traveller's Rest, Iveston	...	...	1
			—
Total			19
			—

BOTTLE BANK AREA.

In this area the Consett Iron Company Ltd., gave undertakings not to relet 91 houses, 24 of these have now become vacant and have been closed with a view to demolition.

HAMSTERLEY AREA.

A similar agreement was made with the National Coal Board regarding 146 houses, 26 are now vacant of which some are partly demolished.

The Consett Iron Company Limited have carried out an extensive scheme for the preservation and modernisation of their properties as follows:—

Painting, pointing and joinery repairs to houses at Pemberton and Priestman Avenue, The Grove, Laburnum Avenue, Cort Street, Roger Street and Bessemer Street, Blackhill	...	...	...	180 Houses
Installation of wash-up sinks at Berry Edge Road, Albert Road, Alexandra Street, West Victoria Street, Bertha Street, Steel Street and Park Road.				
Consett	...	...	...	134 Houses

OVERCROWDING.

Seventeen cases of overcrowding were relieved by tenants being removed to Council houses, in 3 cases relief was gained by removal to private houses and 3 other cases by reduction in family. The total number of persons involved was 172. One new case was added, bringing the list of legally known cases to 68.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Ministry of Food continue to use premises in Prospect Place, Consett for the slaughtering of animals. The North Eastern Wholesale Meat Supply Association, together with the Consett Retail Buying Group receive and allocate from these premises, and an additional building for the receiving and distribution of frozen and tinned meat is also used.

Government collecting centres at Blackhill, Lanchester and Rowlands Gill supply the major portion of animals for slaughter. These animals are given an ante-mortem inspection in the lairages at the slaughter house.

A local haulage contractor is responsible for the individual distribution to the various shops in the area and this is carried out in covered vans having special floor boards. Offals are placed in suitable metal containers and generally the work is carried out satisfactorily.

A butcher's shop premises were entirely reconstructed and they are now in proper order.

Altogether 10,594 animals were slaughtered during the year as follows:—

Bulls	...	...	16
Bullocks	...	...	673
Cows	...	...	475
Heifers	...	...	1,322
Calves	...	...	761
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	7,260
Pigs	...	...	87

Total ... 10,594

Of this number 465 animals were classified as casualties:—

Bulls	...	...	2
Bullocks	...	...	17
Cows	...	...	114
Heifers	...	...	27
Calves	...	...	68
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	179
Pigs	...	...	58

Total ... 465

One hundred per cent. meat inspection was again attained and an appendix is given of the various causes from which animals and offals were condemned. All condemned meats are disposed of by the Ministry of Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	2011	475	761	7260	87
Number Inspected	2011	475	761	7260	87
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	8	31	13	38	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	697	153	9	90	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	35.05	38.74	2.89	1.76	10.34
Tuberculosis Only:					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	11	38	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	216	173	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	11.28	44.42	.26	—	3.44

Consett Urban District Council Total Carcasses, etc., found to be unfit for human consumption during year 1950

	Carcasses, etc.				Lungs		Hearts		Livers		Heads			Plucks			Cow Udders	Ox Stomach	Ox thick skirts
	Beast	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Ox	Ox	Ox	Sheep	Ox	Sheep	Ox	Sheep	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Pigs			
Tuberculosis	49+14qrs. +294lbs	2			322	18	17		139		3						1	12	17
Actinomycosis																			
Septic Pneumonia			2	36lbs.										2		1			
Abscesses																			
Cirrhosis																			
C. Haemangioma																			
Johnes Disease	7		1																
Fever (Acute)	2	5	8	5															
Septic Conditions	4	2	17																
Oedema and Emaciation	24																		
Mastitis																			
Parasites																			
Immaturity		3																	
Dead, Moribund																			
Imperfect Bleeding																			
Traumatism	1 + 3qrs. + 488lbs.	1	6	276 lbs													83		
Hydatid Cysts		84 lbs.	2+80 lbs.																
Pyæmia		1																	
Pleurisy and Peritonitis	1																		
Icterus																			
Congestion																			
Uraemia			1																
Leukaemia			1																
Melanosis																			
Bone Taint	359 lbs.	1																	
TOTALS	88 + 17qrs. + 1141 lbs.	15 + 84lbs.	38+ 80lbs	6+ 312 lbs	322	18	927		144	8	3			88	9	2	84	15	17

IMPORTED MEAT.

The following meat was distributed to the trade in addition to the home killed.

Hind Quarters Beef	2,924
Fore Quarters Beef	2,363
Beef Crops	268
Boneless Beef	1,996 bags
Sheep	4,382
Lambs	15,766
Boneless Mutton	269 bags
Boneless Lamb	93 bags
Sides of Pork	155
Pork	746 bags
Veal	196 bags
Canned Corned Beef 64 tons. 9 cwt., 2 qrs., 8 lbs.	

OFFAL.

Beast Livers	279 bags
Beast Hearts	44 „
Beast Tails	31 „
Beast Tongues	21 „
Beast Kidneys	19 „
Lambs Livers	236 cases
Lambs Hearts	86 bags
Lambs Kidneys	20 „
Lambs Tongues	12 „
Lambs Sweetbreads	8 „
Pig Livers	32 „
Pig Kidneys	27 „
Pig Hearts	2 „

The following was found on examination to be unfit for human consumption on account of unsound conditions:—

388 lbs. Corned Beef.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

A list is set out below of various articles of food examined at retail shops, warehouses, etc., and found to be unsound, unwholesome or so damaged as to be unfit for human consumption:—

Fruit .	1,116 tins	Apples .	260 lbs..
Milk .	448 „	Cooked Ham .	113½ „
Meat .	314 „	Sago .	82 „
Vegetables .	201 „	Sausage .	71 „
Tomatoes .	160 „	Imported Beef .	49 „
Fish .	92 „	Macaroni .	45 „

	Tins		lbs.
Soup .	64 ..	Frizet Powder .	35 ..
Rabbits .	22 ..	Toasted Marsh-	
Mincemeat .	15 ..	mallow Sweets	20 ..
Jam .	10 ..	Jellied Brisket .	18 ..
Sausages .	8 ..	Beef Suet .	12 ..
Tomato Juice .	5 ..	Sandwich Cake .	7 ..
Fruit Juice .	3 ..	Custard Powder .	6 ..
Rhubarb	3 ..	Pressed Beef .	141 ..
Pease Pudding .	2 ..	Haddocks	6 Stones
Meat & Vegetables	2 ..	Table Jellies .	18
Pudding .	1 ..	Sandwich Spread .	17 Jars
Spaghetti .	1 ..	Beetroot .	13 ..
Cocoa .	1 ..	Pickles .	10 ..
Dehydrated Onion	1 ..	Meat Paste .	7 ..
Sauce	3 bottles	Onions .	8 ..
Salad Cream	10 ..	Jam .	4 ..
Scone Mixture	48 packets	Honey .	2 ..
Pearl Wincetti	15 ..	Marmite .	1 ..
Corn Flakes	14 ..	Pears .	1 ..
		Mustard .	1 ..

CIRCULAR 2886.

Food found to be unfit for sale and returned to the Ministry of Food in accordance with this Circular:—

	lbs.	oz.
Bacon ..	111	5
Butter ..	4	14
Cheese ..	4	14

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERING.

Eighteen pigs were examined in various parts of the district and it is felt that many more pigs are being killed but that owners do not avail themselves of the inspection services we can offer to ensure that the carcasses are free from disease.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

336 visits were carried out to food preparation rooms, shops, restaurants, canteens and hotel kitchens. It is pleasing to record that many works of tiling and redecoration have been carried out and also the gradual superceding of old unhygienic utensils for modern easy clean equipment.

Extensive alterations and additions were made to a bakehouse and the following accommodation added—flour sifting room, bake room, packing room, cooling room and covered in loading bays in which bread is loaded into vans for distribution. We are looking

forward to the day when it will be compulsory to wrap bread at the bakeries.

The open market has again been well used by the stallholders and general public. Windy and wet weather often gives adverse conditions to the traders and those having vans on the travelling shop principle are better able to protect their commodities, and for this reason we are keen to see more of this type of van.

No meat was sold on the market and it was not found necessary to condemn any foodstuffs as being unfit for human consumption.

ICE CREAM REGULATIONS.

Five premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream were regularly visited. Forty-seven samples were taken for examination by the Public Health Laboratory and details of the results are given as follows:—

No. of samples taken	Provisional Grade	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue
33	1	4½ hours or more
6	2	2½—4 hours
1	3	½ —4 „
7	4	0 „

Eighty-two shops retailing ice cream, all of whom are registered, were also systematically inspected.

BYELAWS—HANDLING, WRAPPING AND DELIVERY OF FOOD, AND SALE OF FOOD IN THE OPEN AIR.

The above byelaws came into force on the 4th December, 1950, and a preliminary survey was carried out of all establishments concerned. The implications and duties were fully explained to each proprietor and employer and notification was given in every case wherein it was found that the byelaws were being contravened.

Posters for display in food shops were circulated asking the customers to observe certain rules to prevent risk of spreading infection. Also posters were issued to the employers in food preparation rooms pointing out the various dangers emanating from septic sores and lack of personal cleanliness.

Traders of foodstuffs on the market square were requested to adequately protect all foods which are readily contaminated by dust, dirt, etc., and this was carried out.

It is too early as yet to fully ascertain the response to the request for full compliance with these byelaws. There are indications that

many premises are having a constant supply of hot water installed. together with glass cases for the protection of foodstuffs and this augurs well for the forthcoming year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no outbreaks during 1950.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year a total of 799 visits were made to Council properties, business premises and private dwellings. The inspection and supervision of all Council properties was maintained, and particular attention was given to refuse tips. One such tip (Howden Dene) was given three successive treatments.

Complaints were received from occupiers in the vicinity of Cutler's Hall Tip and a comprehensive survey with treatments was carried out with satisfactory results.

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment in March 213 manholes were prebaited and poisoned and 82 manholes were found to be infested. In the September treatment 208 manholes were treated and infestation was found in 90 cases. Test baiting of 130 manholes representing approximately 10 per cent of untreated manholes was carried out in conjunction with the September campaign and infestation was found in 12 cases.

Treatments at sewage disposal works were also carried out in conjunction with each maintenance treatment to the sewers and although minor infestations were recorded at Ebchester, Knitsley and Pont. Crookhall showed no infestation whatever.

Business Premises: Twenty food shops and food preparation rooms were treated for infestations and in several cases rat proofing work was insisted upon, and after the owners carried this out, satisfactory results were obtained.

It is pleasing to note that quite a number of business firms in this area continue to ask for our advice and services.

Dwelling houses: 119 private dwelling houses were fully treated and rat proofing carried out where it was found necessary.

Under this new Act of 1949, treatment to private dwelling houses is carried out as a free service.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have continued to administer the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, which gives Local Authorities a grant aid of 50 per cent. of all expenses incurred.

Close relations have been maintained with the Northern Division representatives of the Ministry and representation was made at two workable area meetings held at Chester-le-Street.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 56 retailers of milk in the area. The majority are supplied with designated milk from two Pasteurisation Plants situated outside the area, one at Annfield Plain Co-operative Dairies and the other at the Milk Marketing Board premises at Langley Bridge. Both places are in Durham County.

Special attention has been given to persons engaged in the sale, conveyance and distribution of milk so as to prevent any contamination by dirt, dust, rain water and heat. New conveyances are gradually making their appearance and these are complete with proper tops and sides.

Three retailers have provided proper buildings for the deposit of milk prior to its final delivery and all milk delivered from pasteurisation plants are so placed in proper buildings giving complete protection from contamination.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILIZED) REGULATIONS 1949.

All persons selling milk as pasteurised and sterilized are required to be licenced by Local Authority and the following dealers licences have been issued:—

Pasteurised Milk—34.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)—23.

Sterilized—7.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE ABOVE:—

Pasteurised milk—1.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)—1.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949.

In addition the following dealers licences have also been granted for raw milk:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—1.

SUPPLEMENTARY:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—4.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

A total of 676 notifications of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) was received during 1950 compared with 225 in 1949. The increase was due to the prevalence of measles (375 compared with 142) and whooping cough (212 compared with 19). The following table shows the number of cases notified and the number admitted to an isolation hospital or already in an institution for the last ten years.

Cases notified and admitted to Hospital during the last ten years

[illegible]

SCARLET FEVER

There was a total of 59 cases notified during 1950 compared with 52 in 1949. The cases were generally free from complications. There were 39 of the cases treated in hospital and the remainder treated at home.

DIPHTHERIA

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year, which is a record for the Consett Urban District. The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths during the last 10 years:—

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Cases Notified	18	18	29	33	13	14	1	2	1	0
Deaths	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This work is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, Durham County Council. During the year 443 children were treated by your own Medical Officer on behalf of the County Council.

Children under 5 years of age receiving 2 doses of A.P.T. during 1950	...	...	...	...	...	192
Children over 5 years of age and under 15 years of age receiving 2 doses of A.P.T. during 1950	...	...	...	...	...	19
Children receiving reinforcing doses during 1950	...	...	...	...	...	232

At the end of the year the total number of children immunised in the Consett Urban District was as follows:—

Children under 5 years of age who had received 2 doses of A.P.T. ... 1,630 = 48.2% of this age group.

Children over 5 years of age and under 15 years of age who had received 2 doses of A.P.T.

4,768 = 81% of this age group.

MEASLES

During 1950 this disease was epidemic and 375 cases were notified compared with 142 in the previous year. Three cases were admitted to Isolation Hospital because of complications. There was 1 death from this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 212 cases notified during the year compared with 19 in last year. Nine cases were admitted to Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths from this infection.

DYSENTERY

There were 3 cases notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new notifications in 1950 was 91 compared with 49 in 1949. The state of the tuberculosis register at the end of 1950 was 322 pulmonary and 178 non-pulmonary cases, and at the end of 1949 the figures were 251 and 172 respectively. Nine families were rehoused during the year.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Area twice during the year and 7,202 miniature films were taken. As a result of these visits 42 new active cases were discovered, 7 inactive primary and 32 inactive post primary cases.

Year	Total Noti- fica- tions	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Deaths	Recovered	Removed from Area
1941	39	26	13	18	10	7
1942	39	17	22	12	4	7
1943	43	31	12	24	3	8
1944	77	45	32	18	5	4
1945	54	34	20	28	19	4
1946	47	33	14	17	9	3
1947	59	43	16	20	11	5
1948	72	53	19	22	1	10
1949	49	40	9	25	Nil.	5
1950	91	79	12	11	Nil.	9
Totals	570	401	169	195	62	62

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHRATE

There was again a decline in the tuberculosis deathrate, which was 0.40 compared with 0.61 last year. The tuberculosis respiratory deathrate was 0.28 and that for the Administrative County was 0.37. The rates for the last 10 years are given in the following table:—

Year	...	...	...	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Tuberculosis Deathrate				0.51	0.58	0.67	0.79	0.48	0.68	0.50	0.66	0.61	0.40
Pulmonary		...	...	0.41	0.34	0.61	0.51	0.39	0.46	0.40	0.51	0.61	0.28
Non-pulmonary			...	0.10	0.24	0.06	0.28	0.09	0.22	0.10	0.15	—	0.12

HEALTH EDUCATION

The "Better Health" Journal was circulated monthly to the various schools and association etc. in the district.

Annual Report of Rainfall, etc., 1950

Mr. E. Simpkin, Surveyor, has kindly supplied the following information regarding weather conditions during the year:—

Month (1950)	Rainfall in inches	Heaviest Daily Fall		No. of Days rain fell	No. of Days snow fell
		a.m.	Day		
January ...	1.81	.53	1st day	9	4
February ...	4.19	.82	12th day	17	5
March ...	.64	.12	19th day	10	1
April ...	1.82	.27	26th day	20	—
May ...	2.06	.43	18th day	13	—
June ...	1.56	.35	21st day	12	—
July ...	3.81	.92	22nd day	14	—
August ...	3.84	.47	23rd day	21	—
September ...	3.51	.74	6th day	21	—
October ...	1.18	.26	2nd day	10	—
November ...	5.58	1.61	22nd day	20	—
December ...	1.95	.52	4th day	8	9
	31.95			175	19
Average over past 20 years	30.00	2.12	(25th Feb. 1933)	194	19

The rainfall recorded for 1950 (including snowfalls) was below the average for the British Isles but was above the rainfall (Consett) recorded for 1949—viz:— 23.29 ins.

The wettest day of 1950 was the 22nd November when 1.61 ins. fell. Other high recordings were July 22nd (.92) and September 6th (.74).

Thunder was heard on 10 days May (2 days) July (2 days) August (4 days) September (2 days).

Fog and mist were observed on 75 days.

The driest periods were as follows:— 15 days (May 29—June 12) and 14 days (October 14th—27th).

Total sunshine for 1950—as recorded at the Forestry Commission Chopwell Wood, Rowlands Gill—was 1353—8 hours as compared with 1285—6 hours for 1949. As in the previous year June had the most sunshine—followed by July.



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